

COMMENT TO RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE TO ORDER NO. 1366

Docket No. MC2012-26



The enhanced PO Box services currently being offered by the Post Office create a competitive product with an unfair competitive advantage. We are a small neighborhood business that will see a negative impact on our sales as PO Box enhancements become fully implemented and general knowledge of the program is made known to our customers.

The enhanced PO Box services currently being offered that I oppose include:

- Offering Post Office Box renters the use of the Post Office street address for Post Office Box addressing.
- Removing the PO Box designation when using a street address.
- Offering Post Office Box renters email notification of mail delivery.
- Offering Post Office Box renters the ability to receive packages from private carriers.

In reality, these enhancements allow the USPS to offer an identical service to Private Mail Box (PMB) Service. The CMRA regulations established by the USPS create an unfair advantage for the USPS in offering those services. Those unfair regulatory advantages include, but are not limited to:

- The requirement to handle mail for 6 months for departed or cancelled customers. As a store owner, I have to apply new postage to any item that is forwarded during this term.
- The inability for PMB customers to file a change of address form once their contract has ended with the CMRA.
- The inability for PMB customers to get the same free forwarding service offered to PO Box customers.

Additionally, the USPS has publicly expressed their desire to move from 6-day to 5-day delivery. The USPS has repeatedly stated that as their plan stands today, PO Box customers would continue to receive 6-day delivery while PMB customers would not. Should the Post Office get approval of their desired 5-day delivery plan, they would gain yet another unfair advantage over PMB service.

It is unreasonable to ask small businesses like ours to compete with the Post Office when that entity gives itself regulatory advantages on like services and products. When the Post Office first sought to move the PO Box service from the Market Dominant to Competitive category, no mention was made of adding any enhancements. These enhancements change the basic product, and when combined with the CMRA regulations, create a distinct and unfair competitive advantage for the USPS.

We are the faces of small businesses all over this country. We have been in business for nearly twenty years, and currently own four retail packing and shipping stores. Through the years we have provided jobs, paid taxes, supported other local small businesses and held countless charity fundraisers not the least of which included shipping at our expense, over a ton of donated items to victims of Hurricane Katrina. The proposed legislation affects our business and our employees, and undermines the principles on which our country was founded. We respectfully request that the Commission advise the Post Office to cease offering these enhancements as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert B. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.

Robert B. Walker
President, RRK Walker, Inc.
7/31/2012